

The Road Roller

The more we look into the road roller business the worse the matter smells. In going over the road law, we have discovered that the purchase of the road roller was actually against the law. Section 72, of the road law distinctly prohibits the purchase of more than \$500 worth of road machinery in any district of the county by the county court in any year unless authorized by the vote of the people of the district. We know about how many people of Little Levels District who would have voted for the Road Roller. But to read Section 72, of the Road Law:

"The county road engineer may purchase for the use of the magisterial districts of the county, or for the county, stone crushers, road rollers, traction engines, road machines for grading and scraping, tools and other implements, which shall be paid for from moneys levied and collected from the districts and belonging to the district or county road fund, or from the proceeds of bonds issued and sold for such purposes as provided by law.

"No more than FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS shall be levied and collected in any one year in any magisterial district, for the purchase or repair of stone crushers, road rollers, traction engines, or road machines for grading or scraping, tools and implements, unless duly authorized by a vote of the people of the district."

The Road Roller cost \$2,500. If it comes out of the Levels district wholly it is five times the limit the court is allowed by law to spend for this purpose. If the road roller is to be paid for by all four districts, the limit is still exceeded by \$500 or by \$125 in each district. If the court had knowledge of this provision in the law, when its so hastily contracted for this piece of machinery, it well knew that if it had to wait until authorized so to do by popular vote, a road roller would not be purchased until it was needed.

In investigating the road roller matter we have discovered that the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company offered to furnish a similar roller, delivered to Pocahontas county for the sum of \$1,980. This roller is fully guaranteed, and the proposition was made still fairer by the offer to bring the roller here and demonstrate it for thirty days. If it did not prove satisfactory there was no obligation to take the roller. The county of Monongalia has but recently bought a similar roller from the Case Company for \$1980. Rich and populous as is Monongalia county, her court had no extra money with which to buy \$2,500 rollers when one could be secured for \$1,980. The opinion of our county court on road rollers can not be said to be any superior to that of the Monongalia Court.

Further, this company sells its roller at one price, as any inquirer may ascertain by application to their representative in Marlinton, one of our best business men. On the other hand, we have the information that the Company from which our court bought its roller at a cost of \$2,500, sold similar rollers from \$1,480 up to \$2,850, as follows:

- On Feb. 18, 1909, Lucerne, Pa., at \$2,850.
- On Feb. 12, 1909, Caro, Michigan at \$2,750.
- On June 7, 1909, Grand Haven, Mich., at \$2,750.
- On May 10, 1909, Emmett Co., Mich., at \$2,650.
- On Oct. 28, 1907, Augusta Co., Va., at \$2,350.
- On May 6, 1909, Anderson Co., Ky., at \$1,980.
- On August 2, 1909, Marshfield, Wis., at \$2,250.

We have information of other sales by this company at more, less and the same price paid by our court, but the above will suffice. This information, we understand, was in the hands of the court at the time the purchase was made, but was it investigated?

A Last Word.

In this campaign The Pocahontas Times has departed from its usual policy of refraining from complaint or criticism of the officers of the county. We were not prompted to thus deviate by any spirit of partisanship, but the high taxation and the waste of public money made incumbent upon this paper to do its duty by the county and her people. In the exposing of the loose, unbusiness like and even unlawful methods of the county court we have had the unqualified endorsement and support of many of the more substantial men of the Republican party; good men and true whose concern is first for the welfare of Pocahontas county.

As to the officers of the county, they are our personal friends, and the editor of The Pocahontas Times is under great obligation for their many kindnesses and for the

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Through your FINGERS
PUT IT IN THE BANK**



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WILL HAVE IT**

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Capital and Surplus, \$91,000.00

consideration they have ever shown him, and for the bestowal of much valuable patronage, which he had no reason whatever to expect. But we will not stand idly by and see the tax rate of the county change from the lowest to one of the highest, under the administration of these good friends, without as loud a protest as we are capable of uttering.

On the unimpeachable word of Sheriff Joe Buzzard we have it that often when he presented last year's tax ticket for payment, the tax payer would burst into tears. Shall these tears fall to the ground without requital? All voters who wear no man's collar and are ever ready to vote according to their belief for the best man, hold up their hands. All voters who are tied to any party or any man by self interest or by golden chains or two barrels of beer, let them hang their heads.—In this campaign we have confined ourselves to only charges which we could substantiate and have attempted to bring them before the people in plenty of time for the opposition to refute them if they were able to do so. They have remained silent, except for the presentation of excuses for a few acts where the policy had been questioned. To our specific charges of extravagance, waste and even unlawful acts of the court, there has been no reply other than the weakling's wail that we were misrepresenting matters for political effect. However, we believe that what we have said is true, that we have not magnified the situation, and have attempted to keep matters of mere personality, other than fitness for office, out of the campaign.

The election is now up to the people and they will decide it next Tuesday and whatever the people of the Pocahontas county see fit to do will satisfy us. If they prefer a high rate of taxation and the lavish use of money, we people of the county seat will probably get the benefit of it. If on the other hand they prefer low taxation and an economical form of government. We will try to raise enough potatoes and take in corn enough on subscription to tide over to the time when the tax-payers money may flow free as water again.

Enough new road, new bridges, and public patronage generally, has been promised the people of this county severally and individually by the road engineer and members of county court seeking re-election, to keep the road department of the county working over time for years to come, and the only things necessary to do to bring all these desirable things to pass is to support them at the polls. It is inconceivable that any great number of the intelligent voters of this county will fall for this cheap and outworn political claptrap, especially as many of these promises must ever remain unfulfilled in the nature of things. Besides it is clearly a breach of public trust for any official to make or imply such promises as a reward for votes in the various communities. The Democratic nominees have carefully refrained from making such promises. Their only pledge is for careful and economical administration of the county's affairs, and an equitable distribution of the funds to every part of the county as a whole.

The carrying out of this policy of economy will insure the saving of a sum sufficient to build several very necessary new roads without increasing the rate of taxation. On the other hand, if \$18,400, the amount of last years road tax, was not sufficient to keep the roads in even fair repair and build practically no new road, what amount would the present court require if it were to attempt to keep up the roads, and build all the new roads promised?

All inquirers as to A. D. Williams' ability as a representative, should ask Paul Golden. Mr. Williams represented Mr. Golden at the time.

We are in receipt of a letter from J. G. Tilton, in which he takes us to task for exaggerating the emoluments of office of the various beneficiaries of appointments at the hands of the county court and the governor. We have published and are publishing this week the salaries paid to the officers of the county, and in the item objected to we did not particularly wish to show the extravagance of the court in the raising salaries, but rather to illustrate that by reason of the numberless offices created by a Republican legislature it had been possible to supply with as good or better jobs those patriots who had been returned to family and friends when they sought office at the hands of their party or the whole people.

Mr. Tilton says he receives \$800 a year salary as assistant assessor and not \$1800. But he does not deny that he gets \$1000 out of the fees of the clerks office as deputy. He also corrects us, as to the exact salary of the road engineer, which is \$900, instead of \$1200, the figures we published. We know as well as he that Mr. Duncan's salary is \$900, but will Mr. Tilton or Mr. Duncan deny that he has drawn \$1200 the past year for services to the county? Then the matter of compensation to H. M. Lockridge as deputy game warden. His salary is \$900 and is paid by the state, but in addition he may draw for expense and mileage sufficient to make this office cost \$1600, the figures we published. Mr. Tilton reiterates that the fee of \$400 for settling with the late sheriff was not too much for the work done. It looked big to us, and in reply to the Republican organ's statement that the charge was low, we merely quoted some figures to show that in the three months required to make the settlement Mr. Tilton, one of the two commissioners drew the handsome sum of \$650, as commissioner, deputy assessor and deputy clerk.

In reply to his petulant remark that we might confine ourselves in this campaign to the points of advantage the Democratic candidates held over the present court. We will say that the records of Mr. Hevener and Dr. Price as business men and public officers show them to be men who will not be unduly influenced by any one, and who are conscientious in the discharge of their duty. And that we have a right (and would be recreant in our duty as a newspaper if we did not) to criticize the recklessness and waste which has characterized the present county court, in order that such men as John R. Hevener and Norman R. Price may be assured of election over such a court as the county has endured the past two years.

As illustrative of the standing John R. Hevener, for County Court from Greenbank district, enjoys in his own community, a neighbor estimates his vote at his home precinct at two hundred out of the possible two hundred and eleven votes registered.

Adam B. Littlepage is making the campaign of his life in this the Tenth District, for Congress. He had made eighty-three speeches up to last Saturday, had not missed an engagement and had ridden on horse back and in buggies 1216 miles, and is not through yet.

For the period of eight months, ending September 1, the imports into the United States exceeded its exports. And yet the Republican tariff tinkers tell us the tariff is not a license to rob the consumer. A tariff wall as high as heaven will not keep out foreign goods if the price of domestic goods goes up in proportion. The consumer pays the tariff not only on foreign made goods but the product of the home factories as well.

FOR A STRAIGHT TICKET MADE WITHIN THIS CIRCLE	FOR A STRAIGHT TICKET MADE WITHIN THIS CIRCLE	FOR A STRAIGHT TICKET MADE WITHIN THIS CIRCLE	FOR A STRAIGHT TICKET MADE WITHIN THIS CIRCLE
DEMOCRATIC TICKET	SOCIALIST TICKET	PROHIBITION TICKET	REPUBLICAN TICKET
CONGRESSIONAL TICKET.	CONGRESSIONAL TICKET.	CONGRESSIONAL TICKET.	CONGRESSIONAL TICKET.
For Congress—Third District ADAM B. LITTLEPAGE Residence, Charleston, W. Va.	For Congress—Third District L. C. ROGERS Residence, Oakhill, W. Va.	For Congress—Third District CHARLES HILL Residence, Mt. Carbon, W. Va.	For Congress—Third District J. H. GAINES Residence, Charleston, W. Va.
SENATORIAL TICKET.	SENATORIAL TICKET.	SENATORIAL TICKET.	SENATORIAL TICKET.
For State Senate—Tenth District R. F. KIDD Residence, Glenville, W. Va.	For State Senate—Tenth District	For State Senate—Tenth District GEO. B. WILLIAMS Residence, Sutton, W. Va.	For State Senate—Tenth District DR. J. W. PRICE Residence, Marlinton, W. Va.
POCAHONTAS COUNTY TICKET.	POCAHONTAS COUNTY TICKET.	POCAHONTAS COUNTY TICKET.	POCAHONTAS COUNTY TICKET.
For House of Delegates J. A. McLAUGHLIN Residence, Marlinton, W. Va.	For House of Delegates	For House of Delegates W. A. HOWARD Residence, Burner, W. Va.	For House of Delegates A. D. WILLIAMS Residence, Marlinton, W. Va.
For Commissioner of the County Court—Long Term DR. N. R. PRICE Residence, Marlinton, W. Va.	For Commissioner of the County Court—Long Term	For Commissioner of the County Court—Long Term	For Commissioner of the County Court—Long Term W. A. G. SHARP Residence, Frost, W. Va.
For Commissioner of the County Court—Short Term JOHN R. HEVENER Residence, Greenbank, W. Va.	For Commissioner of the County Court—Short Term	For Commissioner of the County Court—Short Term JOHN E. CHITISTER Residence, May, W. Va.	For Commissioner of the County Court—Short Term R. S. HICKMAN Residence, Cass, W. Va.
For Superintendent of Schools B. B. WILLIAMS Residence, Cass, W. Va.	For Superintendent of Schools	For Superintendent of Schools	For Superintendent of Schools J. W. G. SMITH Residence, Onoto, W. Va.

I. G. W. Sharp, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, do hereby certify that the above is a true fac-simile of the ballot to be voted in said county at the election to be held November 8, 1910.
G. W. SHARP, Clerk.



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